

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 304802
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VLC:TMCARNEY:JY
APPROVED BY EA:RHOLBROOKE
EUR GVEST
S/S-O:JETHYDEN

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R 220334Z DEC 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T STATE 304802

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS:PDIP, US, VM

SUBJECT:US-VIETNAM RELATIONS:THIRD ROUND OF PARIS TALKS
SECRET

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1. ACTION ADDRESSEES MAY BRIEF HOST GOVERNMENTS ON THE
DECEMBER 19-20 OF US-SRV TALKS USING THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS: THE TWO SIDES DISCUSSED THE
TRADE EMBARGO AND FORMS OF REPRESENTATION.
WE REITERATED THAT THE TRADE EMBARGO WILL REMAIN IN PLACE
UNTIL THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FULL DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS AND AN EXCHANGE OF EMBASSIES.

-- REFUGEES/HUMAN RIGHTS: WE DENIED THAT THE U.S. IS EN-

COURAGING REFUGEES TO FLEE VIETNAM AND EXPLAINED THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN RESPONSE TO THIS HUMANITARIAN ISSUE, OVER THE PAST HALF-CENTURY. HOLBROOKE ALSO OUTLINED U.S. CONCERNS ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS WORLDWIDE, AND TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO NOTE QUESTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IN VIETNAM.

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TO VIETNAM, NOTING THE ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS TO KEEP PROVISIONS AGAINST INDIRECT AID FROM ENTERING THE LAW AND THUS DAMAGING THE INSTITUTIONS WHICH FOSTER WORLDWIDE DEVELOPMENT.

-- ATMOSPHERICS: ONCE AGAIN THE MEETING TOOK PLACE IN A FRANK, NON-POLEMICAL STYLE WITH FREE EXCHANGES OF VIEWS. BOTH DELEGATIONS AGREED THAT ALTHOUGH "PROGRESS" IS TOO STRONG A WORD TO CHARACTERIZE THE RESULTS OF THE SESSION, THE TALKS WERE EXTREMELY USEFUL.

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2. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM HOLBROOKE'S OPENING
STATEMENT CONCERNING GLOBAL AND REGIONAL U.S. POLICIES.
YOU MAY PASS THEM TO HOST GOVERNMENTS.

BEGIN: I WOULD LIKE TO PLACE MY GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES IN
SOUTHEAST ASIA IN A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE. THE UNITED
STATES HAS NO INTEREST IN TRYING TO IMPOSE ITS WILL ON ANY
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TION IS TO SEEK A CLOSER COOPERATION, BETTER RELATIONS
WITH ALL COUNTRIES WHILE RESPECTING THEIR SOVEREIGNTY
AND INDEPENDENCE. THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION SEEKS MUTUAL
BENEFIT IN ITS RELATIONS WITH OTHER STATES, NOT HEGEMONY.
AND IT SEEKS A COOPERATIVE APPROACH TO ENHANCING PEACE
AND STABILITY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

SOME OF THE SPECIFIC POLICIES WHICH DERIVE FROM THIS
GLOBAL APPROACH ARE:

-- THE EFFORT TO LIMIT, TOGETHER WITH THE SOVIET UNION,
THE STRATEGIC ARMS RACE; AND, TOGETHER WITH OTHER ARMS
EXPORTERS, TO LIMIT THE SALE OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS;

-- THE EFFORT TO AVOID NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND NUCLEAR
TESTING AS WELL AS THE USE OF CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WAR-
FARE;

-- THE EFFORT TO AVOID MILITARY ESCALATION BY THE U.S.
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THESE POLICIES ARE DIRECTED AT REDUCING THE POTENTIAL OR
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-- WE ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS OF
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-- WE SUPPORT EQUITABLE ADJUSTMENTS IN THE ECONOMIC RE-
LATIONS BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED AND THE DEVELOPING WORLD.

-- WE ARE GIVING PARTICULAR EMPHASIS TO ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
DIRECTED TOWARD IMPROVING THE LIFE OF THE VERY POOR.

-- WE SEEK GREATER CONSIDERATION FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND HIS ABILITY TO PARTICIPATE MEANINGFULLY IN THE POLITICAL PROCESSES OF HIS NATION.

THESE GLOBAL POLICIES HAVE SPECIAL RELEVANCE FOR OUR RELATIONS WITH SOUTHEAST ASIA AND WITH VIETNAM. THE YEARS OF STRIFE INVOLVING OUR TWO NATIONS AND THE AREA AS A WHOLE HAVE FINALLY ENDED. THE ADMINISTRATION WISHES THE HOSTILE ATTITUDE OF THE PAST TO END. WE BOTH HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO AN ENDURING PEACE FOR WHICH ALREADY FOUNDATIONS ARE BEING LAID.

JUST AS WE SEEK TO AVOID GREAT POWER RIVALRY IN THE AREA AND A RENEWAL OF THE DIVISION OF REGIONAL STATES INTO COMPETING BLOCS, SO WE APPLAUD VIETNAM'S DESIRE TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND BUILD COMMERCIAL TIES WITH ALL OF ITS SOUTHEAST ASIAN NEIGHBORS, INCLUDING THAILAND. I KNOW FROM MY OWN JOURNEYS IN RECENT MONTHS AND TALKS IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK WITH SEASIAN LEADERS THAT OUR OLD FRIENDS IN ASIA EARNESTLY RECIPROCATATE VIETNAM'S INTEREST IN NORMAL AND PRODUCTIVE RELATIONS.

OUR OWN RELATIONS WITH THESE COUNTRIES ARE BASED ON RESPECT FOR THEIR SOVEREIGN INDEPENDENCE. TWO OF THEM ARE OUR LONG TIME ALLIES; OUR ALLIANCE IS NOT AGAINST ANY OTHER COUNTRY. OUR MILITARY BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES, TOGETHER WITH THOSE ELSEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC, CONTRIBUTE TO THE MAINTENANCE OF A GLOBAL STRATEGIC POSTURE WHICH WE ARE NOT ALONE IN BELIEVING CONSTITUTES AN INDISPENSIBLE DETERRENT TO HOSTILITIES IN ASIA AS WELL AS ELSEWHERE
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IN THE WORLD. THESE ISLAND BASES ARE NOT AIMED AT THE ASIAN MAINLAND BUT AT PROTECTING THE SHIPPING LANES OF BOTH THE PACIFIC AND INDIAN OCEANS AS WELL AS MAINTAINING A STRATEGIC BALANCE ESSENTIAL FOR LONG-TERM PEACE AND STABILITY.

AS YOU KNOW, WE ARE NEGOTIATING WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES NOW TO DETERMINE A STABLE BASIS ON WHICH OUR BASES WILL REMAIN IN THE PHILIPPINES. I WILL BE BACK IN MANILA IN JANUARY TO TALK AGAIN TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES AND I AM HOPEFUL THAT OVER TIME WE WILL DEVELOP A STABLE, NEW BASIS FOR OUR MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE PHILIPPINES.

REFLECTING THE SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN THE SITUATION IN MAINLAND SOUTHEAST ASIA AS WELL AS U.S. POLICY, WE NO LONGER OPERATE MILITARY BASES IN THAILAND, NOR DO WE ENVISAGE DOING SO. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT OUR CONCERN FOR THAILAND'S STABILITY, ECONOMIC WELL BEING, AND

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THE PROSPERITY OF THE WHOLE. WE HAVE BEEN HAPPY IN THIS TENTH ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF ASEAN TO HAVE ENTERED INTO OUR FIRST OFFICIAL DIALOGUE WITH ASEAN AS A GROUP. WE ALSO WELCOME, AND WORK TO PROMOTE, CLOSER ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG THE COUNTRIES OF THE AREA AND BETWEEN THEM AND COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE AREA.

FINALLY, A WORD ABOUT U.S. ECONOMIC POLICIES IN ASIA AS A WHOLE. TWO-WAY TRADE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND EAST ASIA HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED OVER THE SPAN OF THE LAST FIVE YEARS. COUNTRIES OF THE EAST ASIA-PACIFIC REGION HAD A TRADE SURPLUS WITH THE UNITED STATES OF MORE THAN 10 BILLION DOLLARS IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR; THE EAST ASIAN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' SHARE IN THIS SURPLUS WAS 5-1/2 BILLION DOLLARS AND OF THIS, THE ASEAN COUNTRIES' SHARE WAS MORE THAN 2-1/2 BILLION DOLLARS. THIS REFLECTS THE RESPONSIBILITIES THE UNITED STATES HAS ASSUMED IN PROMOTING WORLD ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND MAINTAINING THE LARGEST AND FREEST MARKET FOR FOREIGN TRADE.

AN IMPORTANT GOAL OF OUR RELATIONS WITH ASIAN COUNTRIES, AS WITH OTHER REGIONS OF THE WORLD, IS TO CREATE A CLIMATE WHERE INDIVIDUAL HUMAN RIGHTS CAN PROSPER. OUR CONCERN IS UNIVERSAL AND SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS EXTENDING ONLY TO COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE SOCIAL SYSTEMS DIFFERENT FROM OUR OWN. PRESIDENT CARTER HAS COMMITTED HIMSELF TO THIS GOAL AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, EXPRESSING THEMSELVES THROUGH CONGRESS, SUPPORT IT.

CONGRESS HAS ENACTED LEGISLATION WHICH REQUIRES THE ADMINISTRATION TO DEMONSTRATE CONCRETELY AMERICAN DIS-APPROVAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN COUNTRIES THAT RECEIVE U.S. ASSISTANCE, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY THROUGH INTERNATIONAL BANKS. WE HAVE IN SOME CASES CUR-TAILED AID TO GOVERNMENTS WITH WHICH WE HAVE LONG

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APPROVED BY:IO/UNA:AFHOLLOWAY

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S E C R E T STATE 304802

EXDIS FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT 304802 ACTION BANGKOK CANBERRA JAKARTA KUALALUMPUR MANILA SEOUL SINGAPORE WELLINGTON TOKYO LONDON BONN INFO HONG KONG VIENTIANE PEKING RANGOOD MOSCOW DEC 22

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FOL TEL SENT ACTION BANGKOK CANBERRA JAKARTA KUALA LUMPUR MANILA
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COURAGING REFUGEES TO FLEE VIETNAM AND EXPLAINED THE
HISTORY OF AMERICAN RESPONSE TO THIS HUMANITARIAN ISSUE,
OVER THE PAST HALF-CENTURY. HOLBROOKE ALSO OUTLINED U.S.
CONCERNS ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS WORLDWIDE, AND TOOK THE
OPPORTUNITY TO NOTE QUESTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES ABOUT
HUMAN RIGHTS IN VIETNAM.

-- MIA: THE VIETNAMESE ACCEPTED OUR LONG-STANDING INVITA-
TION TO SEND EXPERTS TO THE CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION
LABORATORY IN HAWAII TO STUDY OUR METHODS OF IDENTIFICATION
OF REMAINS. WE EXPECT THEM TO VISIT IN THE SPRING. THIS
WELCOME RESPONSE PUBLICLY UNDERSCORES THEIR CONTINUING
COMMITMENT TO RESOLVE THE MIA ISSUE AND WILL HELP THEIR
IMAGE IN THE UNITED STATES.

-- AID: THE VIETNAMESE SHOWED INCREASED AWARENESS OF
US DOMESTIC REALITIES ABOUT DIRECT AMERICAN AID. THEY
QUESTIONED AMERICAN POLICY ON INDIRECT AID AS SHOWN BY
THE PRESIDENT'S OCTOBER 6 LETTER TO THE CONGRESS
PROMISING TO VOTE AGAINST INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITU-
TIONS' PROGRAMS FOR VIETNAM. WE REITERATED THE REALITIES
OF CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION TO ANY FORM OF AMERICAN AID
TO VIETNAM, NOTING THE ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS TO KEEP
PROVISIONS AGAINST INDIRECT AID FROM ENTERING THE LAW
AND THUS DAMAGING THE INSTITUTIONS WHICH FOSTER WORLDWIDE
DEVELOPMENT.

-- ATMOSPHERICS: ONCE AGAIN THE MEETING TOOK PLACE IN
A FRANK, NON-POLEMICAL STYLE WITH FREE EXCHANGES OF
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VIEWS. BOTH DELEGATIONS AGREED THAT ALTHOUGH "PROGRESS"

IS TOO STRONG A WORD TO CHARACTERIZE THE RESULTS OF THE SESSION, THE TALKS WERE EXTREMELY USEFUL.

-- NEXT MEETING: AT A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE TIME AND PLACE NOT YET SET.

-- AMERICAN YACHT BRILLIG: THE VIETNAMESE PROVIDED NO EVIDENCE TO SUBSTANTIATE THEIR ACCUSATIONS THAT THE YACHT VIOLATED VIETNAMESE TERRITORIAL WATERS NOR THAT IT CARRIED A LARGE QUANTITY OF MARIJUANA (600 KG). UNTIL SUCH EVIDENCE IS FORTHCOMING, WE WILL REGARD THE STATEMENT THEY SAID THE CREW SIGNED AS HAVING BEEN MADE UNDER DURESS, CONSIDERING THE LONG PERIOD THE VIETNAMESE HELD THE THREE CREWMEMBERS INCOMMUNICADO. WE DO NOT REGARD THE CREW'S RELEASE AS A "GESTURE" IN THE CONTEXT OF THE TALKS ON NORMALIZATION AND ARE DISAPPOINTED THAT THE VIETNAMESE FAILED TO APPRECIATE HOW SERIOUSLY THEIR DELAY COULD HAVE AFFECTED NORMALIZATION DUE TO ADVERSE AMERICAN DOMESTIC REACTION.

2. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM HOLBROOKE'S OPENING STATEMENT CONCERNING GLOBAL AND REGIONAL U.S. POLICIES. YOU MAY PASS THEM TO HOST GOVERNMENTS.

BEGIN: I WOULD LIKE TO PLACE MY GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA IN A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE. THE UNITED STATES HAS NO INTEREST IN TRYING TO IMPOSE ITS WILL ON ANY PART OF THE WORLD; THE OBJECTIVE OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS TO SEEK A CLOSER COOPERATION, BETTER RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES WHILE RESPECTING THEIR SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE. THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION SEEKS MUTUAL BENEFIT IN ITS RELATIONS WITH OTHER STATES, NOT HEGEMONY. AND IT SEEKS A COOPERATIVE APPROACH TO ENHANCING PEACE AND STABILITY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

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SOME OF THE SPECIFIC POLICIES WHICH DERIVE FROM THIS GLOBAL APPROACH ARE:

-- THE EFFORT TO LIMIT, TOGETHER WITH THE SOVIET UNION, THE STRATEGIC ARMS RACE; AND, TOGETHER WITH OTHER ARMS EXPORTERS, TO LIMIT THE SALE OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS;

-- THE EFFORT TO AVOID NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND NUCLEAR TESTING AS WELL AS THE USE OF CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WARFARE;

-- THE EFFORT TO AVOID MILITARY ESCALATION BY THE U.S. AND THE SOVIET UNION DUE TO COMPETITION IN OTHER REGIONS OF THE WORLD, NOTABLY OUR REFUSAL TO SUPPLY ARMS TO EITHER SIDE IN THE HORN OF AFRICA AND OUR TALKS WITH THE SOVIET

UNION ON ARMS LIMITATION IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.

THESE POLICIES ARE DIRECTED AT REDUCING THE POTENTIAL OR SIZE OF A CONFLICT. OTHER POLICIES ARE DIRECTED AT REMOVING THE CAUSES OF CONFLICT, RECOGNIZING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ECONOMIC GROWTH AND POLITICAL STABILITY.

-- WE ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS OF COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD AND URGING OTHER ADVANCED COUNTRIES TO DO THE SAME.

-- WE SUPPORT EQUITABLE ADJUSTMENTS IN THE ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED AND THE DEVELOPING WORLD.

-- WE ARE GIVING PARTICULAR EMPHASIS TO ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS DIRECTED TOWARD IMPROVING THE LIFE OF THE VERY POOR.

-- WE SEEK GREATER CONSIDERATION FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE
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INDIVIDUAL AND HIS ABILITY TO PARTICIPATE MEANINGFULLY IN THE POLITICAL PROCESSES OF HIS NATION.

THESE GLOBAL POLICIES HAVE SPECIAL RELEVANCE FOR OUR RELATIONS WITH SOUTHEAST ASIA AND WITH VIETNAM. THE YEARS OF STRIFE INVOLVING OUR TWO NATIONS AND THE AREA AS A WHOLE HAVE FINALLY ENDED. THE ADMINISTRATION WISHES THE HOSTILE ATTITUDE OF THE PAST TO END. WE BOTH HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO AN ENDURING PEACE FOR WHICH ALREADY FOUNDATIONS ARE BEING LAID.

JUST AS WE SEEK TO AVOID GREAT POWER RIVALRY IN THE AREA AND A RENEWAL OF THE DIVISION OF REGIONAL STATES INTO COMPETING BLOCS, SO WE APPLAUD VIETNAM'S DESIRE TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND BUILD COMMERCIAL TIES WITH ALL OF ITS SOUTHEAST ASIAN NEIGHBORS, INCLUDING THAILAND. I KNOW FROM MY OWN JOURNEYS IN RECENT MONTHS AND TALKS IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK WITH SEASIAN LEADERS THAT OUR OLD FRIENDS IN ASIA EARNESTLY RECIPROCATATE VIETNAM'S INTEREST IN NORMAL AND PRODUCTIVE RELATIONS.

OUR OWN RELATIONS WITH THESE COUNTRIES ARE BASED ON RESPECT FOR THEIR SOVEREIGN INDEPENDENCE. TWO OF THEM ARE OUR LONG TIME ALLIES; OUR ALLIANCE IS NOT AGAINST ANY OTHER COUNTRY. OUR MILITARY BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES, TOGETHER WITH THOSE ELSEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC, CONTRIBUTE TO THE MAINTENANCE OF A GLOBAL STRATEGIC POSTURE WHICH WE ARE NOT ALONE IN BELIEVING CONSTITUTES AN INDISPENSIBLE DETERRENT TO HOSTILITIES IN ASIA AS WELL AS ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD. THESE ISLAND BASES ARE NOT AIMED AT THE ASIAN MAINLAND BUT AT PROTECTING THE SHIPPING LANES OF BOTH THE PACIFIC AND INDIAN OCEANS AS WELL AS MAINTAINING

A STRATEGIC BALANCE ESSENTIAL FOR LONG-TERM PEACE AND STABILITY.

AS YOU KNOW, WE ARE NEGOTIATING WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF
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THE PHILIPPINES NOW TO DETERMINE A STABLE BASIS ON WHICH OUR BASES WILL REMAIN IN THE PHILIPPINES. I WILL BE BACK IN MANILA IN JANUARY TO TALK AGAIN TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES AND I AM HOPEFUL THAT OVER TIME WE WILL DEVELOP A STABLE, NEW BASIS FOR OUR MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE PHILIPPINES.

REFLECTING THE SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN THE SITUATION IN MAINLAND SOUTHEAST ASIA AS WELL AS U.S. POLICY, WE NO LONGER OPERATE MILITARY BASES IN THAILAND, NOR DO WE ENVISAGE DOING SO. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT OUR CONCERN FOR THAILAND'S STABILITY, ECONOMIC WELL BEING, AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY HAS DIMINISHED. WE RETAIN A STRONG COMMITMENT TO THAILAND AND COUNT OURSELVES THAILAND'S FIRM FRIEND.

WE APPLAUD VIETNAM'S INTEREST IN STABLE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS, AND WE ALSO APPLAUD THE JOINT EFFORTS OF THE ASEAN COUNTRIES TO FOSTER NATIONAL AND REGIONAL SELF-RELIANCE, TO SPEED ECONOMIC GROWTH THROUGH COOPERATIVE EFFORTS, AND TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES REGARDLESS OF IDEOLOGY. WE RESPECT ASEAN AS THE SELF-SUSTAINING PRODUCT OF A PURELY REGIONAL INITIATIVE. WE WOULD HOPE THAT ITS EXAMPLE WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY OTHER NATIONS OF THE AREA SO THAT IN TIME THE HISTORIC DIVISIONS WILL DISAPPEAR AND EACH WOULD REINFORCE THE PROSPERITY OF THE WHOLE. WE HAVE BEEN HAPPY IN THIS TENTH ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF ASEAN TO HAVE ENTERED INTO OUR FIRST OFFICIAL DIALOGUE WITH ASEAN AS A GROUP. WE ALSO WELCOME, AND WORK TO PROMOTE, CLOSER ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG THE COUNTRIES OF THE AREA AND BETWEEN THEM AND COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE AREA.

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FINALLY, A WORD ABOUT U.S. ECONOMIC POLICIES IN ASIA AS A WHOLE. TWO-WAY TRADE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND EAST ASIA HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED OVER THE SPAN OF THE LAST FIVE YEARS. COUNTRIES OF THE EAST ASIA-PACIFIC REGION HAD A TRADE SURPLUS WITH THE UNITED STATES OF MORE THAN 10 BILLION DOLLARS IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR; THE EAST ASIAN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' SHARE IN THIS SURPLUS WAS 5-1/2 BILLION DOLLARS AND OF THIS, THE ASEAN COUNTRIES' SHARE WAS MORE THAN 2-1/2 BILLION DOLLARS.

THIS REFLECTS THE RESPONSIBILITIES THE UNITED STATES HAS ASSUMED IN PROMOTING WORLD ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND MAINTAINING THE LARGEST AND FREEST MARKET FOR FOREIGN TRADE.

AN IMPORTANT GOAL OF OUR RELATIONS WITH ASIAN COUNTRIES, AS WITH OTHER REGIONS OF THE WORLD, IS TO CREATE A CLIMATE WHERE INDIVIDUAL HUMAN RIGHTS CAN PROSPER. OUR CONCERN IS UNIVERSAL AND SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS EXTENDING ONLY TO COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE SOCIAL SYSTEMS DIFFERENT FROM OUR OWN. PRESIDENT CARTER HAS COMMITTED HIMSELF TO THIS GOAL AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, EXPRESSING THEMSELVES THROUGH CONGRESS, SUPPORT IT.

CONGRESS HAS ENACTED LEGISLATION WHICH REQUIRES THE ADMINISTRATION TO DEMONSTRATE CONCRETELY AMERICAN DIS-APPROVAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN COUNTRIES THAT RECEIVE U.S. ASSISTANCE, EITHER DIRENTLY OR INDIRECTLY THROUGH INTERNATIONAL BANKS. WE HAVE IN SOME CASES CUR-TAILED AID TO GOVERNMENTS WITH WHICH WE HAVE LONG STANDING, FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIPS. CONGRESS HAS BEEN SPECIFIC ABOUT ITS UNWILLINGNESS TO ASSIST THE THREE COUNTRIES OF INDOCHINA, IN PART BECAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS. IF YOU WISH DETAILS OF OUR LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS, I HAVE AN OUTLINE AVAILABLE I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE SURE THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT UNDERSTANDS THIS ADMINISTRATION'S COMMITMENT AND THE LAW UNDER WHICH WE
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OPERATE. THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS A FACTOR WHICH THE UNITED STATES TAKES INTO ACCOUNT IN ITS RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES. END. VANCE UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

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